

REMARKS AND ARGUMENTS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 15, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 15, 18 and 19 were found to be indefinite because claim 15 depended from claim 13 which had been previously canceled. Applicant has corrected the dependency error by amending claim 15 and submits that all of the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 13, 15-19, 33 and 36-38 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 6329224 to Nguyen (hereafter "Nguyen"). Although Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's analysis of the prior art, some of the claims have been amended to more fully describe the subject matter therein.

Nguyen does not teach all of the limitations of Applicant's claim 13. Claim 13 teaches a method for coating a plurality of semiconductor devices that requires "providing a reusable mold with a formation cavity for holding a plurality of semiconductor devices." The reusable mold comprises opposing upper and lower sections that define the formation cavity. Semiconductor devices are mounted within the cavity. A curable coating material is introduced into the cavity and at least partially covers the semiconductor devices. The devices are then cured or otherwise treated so that said semiconductor devices are at

least partially embedded in the cured coating material. The devices are removed from the mold, and the mold can then be used to process another batch of semiconductor devices.

Nguyen teaches a method of encapsulating a plurality of microelectronic assemblies. The Examiner states, "the frames, the top layer and the bottom layer define the cavity of Nguyen, col. 8 lines 20-25, and the cavity holds the device and is injected with the encapsulant." Nguyen further characterizes the frames at col. 6, lines 26-33:

The system also includes a large number of disposable frames 72...[I]t should be appreciated that a large number of such frames are actually employed...[E]ach batch of microelectronic assemblies is processed through the system in one frame and that frame is destroyed at the end of the processing operations.

The frames which the Examiner interprets to define the cavity are disposable and "desirably formed from relatively rigid but inexpensive material such as paper-phenolic composites." Thus, it is apparent that the cavity is not defined by a reusable mold as required by Applicant's claim 13.

This difference is critical for several reasons. Applicant's claim 13 teaches a mold that can be used to process several batches of semiconductor devices without the need to provide a new mold for each iteration of the process, saving resources and reducing cost. Also, because the same mold is used to produce many batches, it may serve to improve the uniformity of the finished devices.

Because Nguyen does not teach all of the limitations of Applicant's claim 13, the claim is not anticipated by the reference. Claim 13 is otherwise allowable.

Claims 15-19 depend from allowable claim 13 and, as such, are also allowable.

Independent claims 33 and 38 contain amendments similar to those of claim 13. Applicant submits that these claims are not anticipated by Nguyen for similar reasons as those discussed above with reference to claim 13.

Claims 36 and 37 depend from allowable claim 33 and, as such, are also allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13, 15-19, 33 and 36-38 for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 35 and 39-41 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen in view of US 6252254 Soules et al.

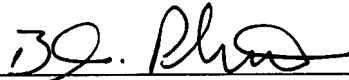
Claim 35 depends from allowable claim 33, and claims 39-41 all depend from allowable claim 38. As such, these dependent claims are also allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 35 and 39-41 for at least the reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that claims 13, 15-19, 33 and 35-41 are in condition for allowance and requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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